

No. 5877 號七十七百八千五第 日八初月八年子丙緒光 HONGKONG, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 1878. 一拜禮 號五十二月九英 港香 PRICE \$24 PER MONTH.

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THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF SHANGHAI.

A Chromo-Lithograph Plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE PEAK;

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THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS (Designed expressly for the JAPANESE MAPS OF HONGKONG, HONGKONG, THE

P. & O. COMPANY'S ROUTES, AND THE COAST OF CHINA; ALSO, THE NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, HONGKONG.

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The "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY" is now the only publication of its kind for China and Japan.

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is, we understand, only 60,000. There are also some 8,000 Chinese residents, and a great deal—more than the principal part—of the trade of the place is in their hands. Sir Brooke gives a brief history of Tonquin from the year 1740, and a statement of the acquisitions made by France in Cochinchina. He also sketches in a few paragraphs the position of the country in reference to Christianity. There are reported to be 400,000 Christians in Tonquin, all of them being, of course, Roman Catholics; nothing, is, however, said of the prospects of the Mission. But they appear to be prospering, and as they are under powerful protection, are likely to flourish.

But the most important part of the Report is undoubtedly that which deals with the prospects of trade with Yunnan. The Songkoi is, Sir Brooke remarks, navigable from Manghong, "the last city,"—the most southern it is to be presumed—in Yunnan and so down to the sea, a distance of 414 miles. This town is the *entrepôt* where goods are shipped to and from Tonquin, the mart being a more northern city, called Mangtze. Below Manghong, in Annamite territory, is situated the town of Laosay, two days' journey from Hanoi. The Songkoi divides in numerous branches, and the two southern ones meet at Hanoi. Sir Brooke is of opinion that, if well surveyed, the river would present no greater impediments to navigation up to the capital, than the Yangtze does up to Hankow, while vessels of light draught could, he thinks, readily ascend as far as to Manghong. He says:—"I saw the peculiarly constructed boats of great length, and drawing little water, ascending the river, as far as Manghong and Mangtze, and closely questioned one or two who had been that route and they stated no difficulties existed. That the river Songkoi is available, therefore, for the transit of the reported rich ores and produce of Yunnan and Tonquin seems certain, and on the removal of three obstacles alone a large and profitable trade may be said to depend, namely the consent of the Governments of Tonquin and China to open the mines, and the clearance of the frontier of Chinese and Annamite Authorities are noted for idleness. For these lawless clans are ever to be offensively dispersed, the work will have to be undertaken by the French. Sir Brooke Robertson expresses an opinion that if a trade be opened with Yunnan and Kwangsi by the Songkoi, it will not necessarily interfere with the route to the Siam States and Burmah. The two routes offer equal advantages, but the points of exit are distant, and, as one gives geographical facilities which the other does not possess, there is no reason why their interests should clash.

With regard to the commercial products and resources of Tonquin Sir Brooke Robertson says little, what information he furnishes, he tells us, derived from a native call *Petres Tavorne Vixney*, who was an employé of the French Government at Saigon, and had been sent to inquire into the trading capacities of Tonquin. This man represented the country as being rich in products of all kinds, possessing coal, copper, and tin, and gold, and silver. Its agricultural capabilities are, he assured Sir Brooke, immense, and silk is abundant and cheap; "a piece of it might be purchased at Hanoi for \$150 which would cost \$250 at Saigon or \$400 in China." This statement must, we should think, be taken *grain sals*. Sir Brooke remarks that it might be true, but from the little he saw of it, he considered it was coarser in thread than that of China and very badly reeled, while the fabrics made from it were imperfect compared with the Chinese, and of very poor quality. But there can be no doubt that Tonquin possesses a rich soil, valuable mineral deposits, and a plentiful supply of labour to work them. The Government, like that of China, is loth to allow the mines to be worked, especially by foreign capital, but it would doubtless yield the point if pressed. Besides the apathy and obstructiveness of the native authorities, however, there is another cause at work to retard the growth of trade and the development of the resources of the country. This is to be found in the restrictive policy of the French, who are unreasonably jealous of other nations, would not willingly encourage the introduction of foreign capital into the country, and regard Cochinchina as their own peculiar preserve. They are anxious to get the communication with Yunnan properly opened before the Siam route can be brought into use, hoping thus, no doubt, to secure something like a monopoly of the trade of that province. They are perfectly welcome to do the best they can to attract commerce from the Western provinces of China down the Songkoi, and it is to be hoped that they will succeed in establishing a remunerative trade, but the spirit of exclusiveness which has too frequently characterized their policy is much to be regretted. They have established for themselves a firm footing in Cochinchina, and their mission is to civilize and develop the country. It is to be hoped that they will be successful in the task. But a policy of restriction is, it must be confessed, not calculated to conduce to such a result.

On the 21st ult. we published the following paragraph:—"The recent escape of the pirate of St. Paul's, Collier, though possibly proceeding from the profoundest gratification to the performers, are not equally appreciated by those residing in the vicinity. A more-lighthearted and cheerful strain than that periodically issuing from the precincts of this establishment it would be impossible to conceive. There can be no objection to Chinese youth learning to sing 'Brighton' but to have their voices raised in the infernal noise of which we hear so much, it would surely be advisable to give them instruction in some remote corner of the island, far from the ears of men. Seriously speaking, however, the nuisance is a great one, and if these vocal exercises could be conducted at some premises at the back of the building, where the sound would be less audible, it would be a great improvement. We hope there will be no occasion to repeat the complaint, and can only suppose that to the absence of the Bishop is to be attributed the continuance of the nuisance."

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CAPTAIN MORESBY'S DISCOVERIES

[illegible]

of New Guinea; and, strong in this feeling, he steered on April 9th for Teste Island.

[illegible]

the leader throwing himself bodily forward and pressing down the grass by his dead

the leader throwing himself bodily forward and pressing down the grass by his decaying weight, while the rest followed, each becoming leader in his turn. This was such hard work that one, at a loss of the party going on the rest, after two hours of incessant search with closed eyes, to listen and hecateat.

But what of that? a glorious prospect rewarded them! There lay the southern east end of New Guinea, with its bright mountain chain, cleft suddenly in twain by a bright blue thread that lay across it. That was enough to indicate that water lay between them and the true south-east extremity of the island. This happened on Good Friday, and resulted in the discovery of Forlescue Strait, cutting off nearly fourteen miles of the coast of New Guinea, forming the island, Moreby Island. The southern channel round the great island was formed, but more remained behind. By a bold expedition it was discovered that between Torres Straits and the main, the island was yet another in size, and another and another channel. The island was named after to Banish, and the channel, the future highway to Asia, China Straits. To these discoveries were added Haytor Island and Heath Island, the latter of which affords a dog's head and a great round bluff, capped from a huge, and the two islands, the blue waters of the strait. This was the majestic termination of the Owen Stanley Range, called after the great and enterprising and lamented discoverer, and at the same time, the south-eastern extremity of the island of New Guinea. Feeling all the importance of these discoveries, Capt. Moreby resolved to occupy the new territory in a formal manner, and thus to annex them.

to the British dominions.—*Edinburgh Review*

A POST-OFFICE IN INDIA.
A post-office in the country is a bamboo box, only lighted by a lamp, which is nothing more than a wick in a sort of shallow copper pan, more like a large tin stand than a lamp. The postman stands at the entrance and asks what they are "writing the letters," and they are asked to throw your letter in among the rest, by way of posting it. You feel very much inclined not to do it, for it seems to you you may well throw it anywhere while you are about as on the heels of other letters lying scattered all over the place, and among other people who are standing about, looking on, evidently with nothing to do, and having no means where they are. But if you try to hint that or ask the postmaster what they are doing, he answers, "This man *Schöb* is my brother." And this is the only excuse you can make for leaving your document—used in looking on at other people working—"Ha! oh, he has married my sister." So, of course, you may say more, though you don't see that being the postmaster's grandfather would give him anything to do with the letters, and you are not at all sure of being very much in it as if you had just dropped your letter out of your pocket instead of having taken it to post-office. But if you were to wait until you would see all the letters were sorted and fastened up safely in their proper boxes and taken away to be sent to their different addresses.—*Little Folks.*

SENDING PLANTS TO SLEEP.
Several members of the Parisian Biology Society have recently been engaged in a series of experiments which seem to prove that everything endowed with life, whether animal, plant, or ferment, is susceptible of being brought under the influence of anæsthetics in the same manner as the human body. It has been proved that the influence of anæsthetics extends to all the animal tissues, and last of all to the central nervous system. Hence it was argued, plants have tendency must also be subject to the influence of ether. And experiments proved that the germinator within 30 hours "either enters dormancy or is destroyed." This is the germination in this plant, but does not destroy that faculty. It merely sends the plant to sleep; for germination recommences as soon as the use of ether is suspended. The sensitive plant, *Mimosa*, is particularly striking. The use of ether is sensitive, but it is not completely dormant by etherization, while the other living properties remain unaffected. On suspending the action of ether, the sensitive faculty of the plant is quickly restored. This capability of going to sleep is not confined to plants, but extends to all forms of life. Thus the ferment of yeast submitted for 24 hours to the influence of ether, becomes perfectly dormant, but recovers its activity as soon as the anæsthetic action is suspended. In future the practical biologist must not neglect the cerebral matters without the aid of ether.

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[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]

Goodnow	Aug. 1	Moller	Siam, bk	480	Gbiname
Friendship	Sept. 4	Moller	Siam, bk		
Goliath	Aug. 7	Anderson	Siam, bk	542	Pow Tai Hong

Halloween	June 24	Fowler	Brit. sh
Herman	Aug. 28	Davidson	Ger. bk

Cordelia	Aug. 00	Williams	Brit. ex	935	H. S. S. Co.
Cashmere	Aug. 12	Norton	Amer. sh	936	H. Moniron
Cathara	Aug. 13	Muthawa	Brit. sh	790	P. M. S. S. Co.

Oremova	Aug. 6	Geve	Amr. Lk	6
Ells. Nicol	Sept. 8	Wilson	Brit. Lk	4

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